Volunteer Newsletter

LA ANIMAL SERVICES

July 2020

Supporting Both Ends of the Leash

A big topic of discussion in the animal welfare world right now is how we can help more animals by supporting their humans. It's no secret that for many reasons, some of us have an easier time accessing compassion for animals than for other humans. But without the support of the broader community, there is only so much we can do for the animals in our care. We have seen since the start of the pandemic how our neighbors have stepped up to foster and adopt in great numbers—enabling us to keep our population low.

LA Animal Services is one of 12 national organizations to pilot the new **Human Animal Support Services** model. According to Amy Zeifang of Maddie's Fund, which is one of the funders of this initiative, "Ninety-five percent of Americans with pets believe their pets are family members. Maddie's Fund is proud to see our energies spent to support that important bond." This pilot team has made a pledge to meet weekly, and will be testing new programs and resources. Focus will be on getting pets home safely without ever having to spend the night in a shelter, pathway planning for the most positive outcome for each animal from the moment they enter the shelter, and placing more animals in foster homes. Animal protection and public safety will be addressed by attacking the root causes of animals' problems.

Many of our new programs are in the spirit of this effort; aimed at helping people, so they can help their pets. Our **Pet Food Pantry** at East Valley and Chesterfield Square dispenses supplemental cat and dog food to anyone who needs it. The **Community Assistance Table** at East Valley is run by volunteers to answer questions and offer advice to our visitors, and will have expanded hours for the July 4th weekend. Our new **Rabbit Roundtables, Cat Chats and Doggy Dialogues** on Zoom help new adopters and fosters learn what their pet needs to be healthy and happy, how to speak their pet's language, and how to address behavioral problems. As one human graduate of volunteer Michelle's recent virtual 6 week course in basic commands said, "I was about to give up on (my new dog). Now she gets to stay in her home."

Photo: LAAS Volunteer Eiko shares a fist bump with a Pet Food Pantry patron.

Good Times with the Staff

Mae has been working on making friends with Zeus (A1655790), transferred to West LA from West Valley. Looks like she's making progress.

Don and Chocolate at East Valley.

Wei at Harbor accepted a big bag of donated treats for the animals.

Idaho, here we come!

Supervisor of Lifesaving Thomas joined our partners Paws 4 Life, Angel City Pitbulls and Kitty Bungalow to fly 29 of our cats and kittens and 22 of our dogs to a new life in Idaho on a Dog is my Co-Pilot transport on June 18th.

Charles got involved with Paws 4 Life at Lancaster State Prison, and was very happy to welcome the travelers aboard.

Boom!

Helping your pet make it through the Fourth of July

For those of us who love animals, Independence Day might be our most *challenging* holiday. Long before the actual day, we hear illegal fireworks going off in our neighborhoods, and our pets are freaked out. The continuing loud, scary noises cause what is called **trigger-stacking.** Your pet may be able to tolerate a loud noise here or there pretty well, but when they start happening over and over again, your pet may start moving from the green (relaxed) to the yellow (triggered) to red (pet is in fight-or-flight mode and is hard to re-direct or soothe). Here are some tips from staff and other volunteers for how to help your little ones cope:

*Re-frame: When you hear the first booms and bangs, exclaim in a happy voice, "Yay! Wasn't that fun?" or something along those lines, and do that every time it happens.

*De-sensitize: Some pet owners have success with playing action or war movies with explosions in the days and weeks leading up to the holiday, so the sounds outside become more normal.

*Re-direct: Give them a high-quality treat, and for extra attention-grabbing, gently toss it so it actually bounces off of them.

*Protect: Most importantly, keep them inside, and spread the word to your friends and neighbors that being outside in a yard on the Fourth of July is too scary for their pets and they may well try to escape what they perceive as a dangerous place and injure themselves in the process. If it's really getting loud and scary for them, put them in a darker room with a fan or music or the radio. And if you can stay with them in that room, they'll be even happier. If a Thundershirt helps them, put that on. They actually make ear plugs for animals too, if you want to try that! And if you think it's necessary, talk to your vet about a mild tranquilizer.

WEST LA VOLUNTEERS:

Your twice-yearly **Volunteer Communication Meeting** with LAAS management is on **Thursday, July 9th** from 5:30 to 7 pm. The meeting will take place on Zoom. Sign up on the portal to receive the Zoom link. If you have any questions about using Zoom, ask Carolyn!

CONTINUING CAT EDUCATION

Did you know we have many publications about caring for cats on our website? Subjects include How to Help a Shy Cat Adjust to a New Home, How to Help Cats Get Along, Creating a Cat Friendly Home, and more. They can all be found on this link: http://www.laanimalservices.com/about-animals/?cats (or click on the Pet Care tab on the LAAS website.)

WILDLIFE WORKSHOPS GO ONLINE

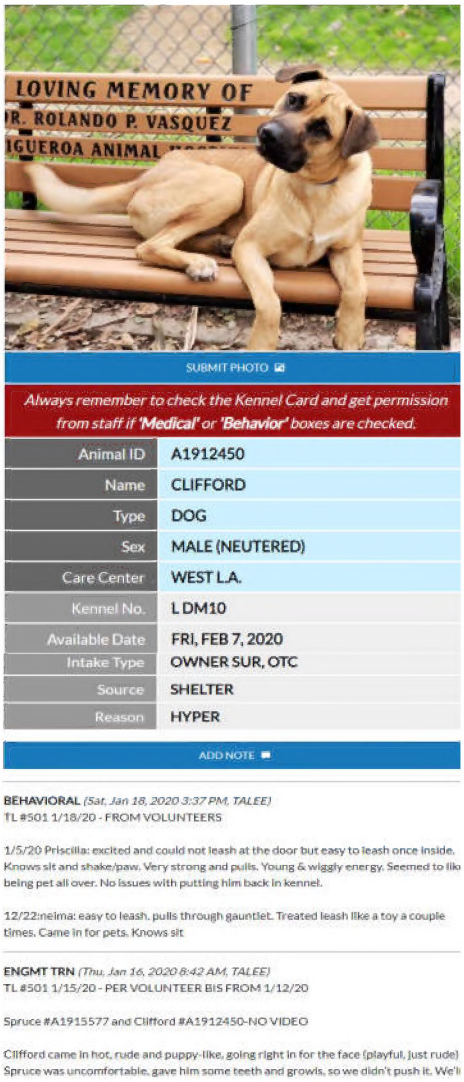
Our officers are going to resume Wildlife Workshops for the public on Zoom. Spread the word to friends, or attend one yourself, to learn how to peacefully coexist with local wildlife. The next date is July 14th at 6 pm and you can get more info on laanimalservices.com

The New System for Entering Volunteer Notes and Pictures is ready to roll!

Huge thanks to our IT department and volunteer liaisons Jake and Marissa for their contribution to brain-storming and creating a web form that volunteers and staff can use to look up information about our animals on the go, right from their phone. Once you are approved, you'll be able to answer many questions for the public and your friends from home. This new form replaces our Google Sheet system for entering behavioral notes—when you return, you'll be able to enter new behavioral memos, or send a better profile picture with much more ease.

Here's what it shows:

*Profile Picture
*Name
*Animal ID #
*Kennel Location
*Gender & Spay/Neuter Status
*Available Date
*Intake Type
(with 'reason' field for owner surrenders)
*Behavioral, Playgroup, Foster, Engagement and Best Buddy memos.



Here's what you can do with it:

*Look up information on your phone easily while on the go. You can search by Animal Service Center and species, and then pick from a handy drop-down menu of names and I.D. numbers

*Submit your own behavioral observations

*Submit a new landscape-oriented picture (this picture replaces the one you see, so don't submit unless it's an improvement!)

<u>Volunteers will need to watch a 10 minute training film and pass a short quiz in order to get access.</u> Enter this link into your web browser to access the training: http://aniserv.la/P6nu50Am537

July Birthdays:

CHESTERFIELD SQUARE:
Jasmin Aguilar, Erica Anderson, Daniela Andrade-Jimenez, Cornelius Austin, Alicia Bean, Linda Castellanos, Yesenia Conde, Jorge Coronel, Kristina Davis, Marissa De la Torre, Citlalli Diaz, Alice Fu, Tyler Gates, Joseph Gomez, Delfina Guzman, Micahyah Hadnot, Katherine Kashanchi, Monica Mejia, Gloria Molina, Mayra Novoa, Angie Ochoa, Cristian Oleta-Topete, Claire Pearce, Alyssa Pineda, Paul Ramirez, Hailey Ramos, Sergio Ruelas, Sojourner-Truth Smith, Patricia Vanegas, Kemberlyn Virgen.

EAST VALLEY:
Kristopher Calix, Melissa Chavez, Maren Clemsen, Michelle Counts, Daniel Cui, Susan Dancs, Ruben Davis, Sarah Diaz, Amelia Flanagan, Celeste Flicker, Samantha Gaisford, Edwin Gasperi, Beth Goldstein, Ivan Grigoryev, Daphna Gutman, Rachel Hamilton, Juliane Heldt, Riley Katz, Robin Katzman, Claire Kim, Joanne Kissack Folsom, Ksenia Lukasheva, Rene Marquez, Arath Martinez, Nayely Martinez, Margherita Matthews, Shanea Najera Speidel, Hayk Navasardyan, Nathan Nooppakoon, Leslie O'Neill, Antonio Perez de la Cruz, Jonathan Ramirez, Claudia Ramos, Ray Ramos, Alix Rosenberg, Hoda Shobeyri, Samantha Soriano, Mary Tebbe, Carlos Tobar, Pamela Vail, Jason Vielman, Dunja Vitolic-Djokovich, Erica Wienzveg, Skyla Woodard, Sharon Yee-Garbade.

HARBOR:
Christine Acherman, Chantz Black, Cayden Burke, Karen Dupree, Delia DuRoss, Janet Garza, Sarah Hickson, Janice Jin, Rosa Lopez, Alex Magdaleno, Johan Martin, Emma Nelson, Eleanor Olsen, Fatima Ortega, Jonathan Parra, Paige Paulsen, Maritza Pimentel Salazar, Maricielo Portugal, Kristine Rickerl, Natalie Rodriguez, Nance Salcido, Cynthia Savitt, Mackenzie Severns, Mya Thompson, Alessandra Wallace.

NORTH CENTRAL:
Nicole Acevedo, Ashley Alarcon, Ariana Alfaro, Melanie Alvarado, Melissa Avendano, Sylvia Avina, Will Dowsett, Christina Espinosa, Luis Favela, Erica Goewey, Bailey Hoesly, Emily Ibarra, Priscilla Johnston, David Kracov, Waverly Mandel, Eveny Mendez, Angel Nunez, Melinda Peters, Gerardo Ramirez, Aileen Ramos, Joscelyn Rivera, Susana Rosales, Neara Russell, Deborah Stevens, Ariana Ubungen, Ariadna Valerio Flores, Krista Vitt.

WEST LA:
Lindsay Backer, Mirja Bishop, Spencer Burakowski, Kennedy Butler, Shirline Chaudhary, Karen Contreras, Cindy Diaz, Danielle Dowling, Jessica Escobar, Melissa Evans, Hannah Friedman, Alisia Galindo, Edwin Gasperi, Susan Hartman, Emily Helterhoff, Sophia Hernandez, Elizabeth Hunt, Niamh Kavanagh, Gillian Liau, Kai Lin, Michael Lin, Rachel Luo, Jessica Lusk, Nora Magdlen, Reagan McClymonds, Isabella Miele-Okada, Karen Mok, Gia Lana Moore, Mary Mortensen, Sharon Nasse, Andrew Ngo, Ryan O'Flanagan, Akinyemi Olowu, Min Park, Ashley Parker, Greta Parker, Maryam Ramezani, Claudia Ramirez, Claudia Reisenberger, Kassie Reynolds, Adrianne Robertson, Caitlin Robins, Terri Rock, Amberly Scott Hindler, Ariana Sedighpour, Stella Shane, Natasha Szombathy, Kendace Taylor, Cassandre Touflet, Lyly Truong, Nikki Vameghi, Kyle Vignoli, Leticia Williams.

WEST VALLEY:
Edward Arrington, Michelle Babanian, Christian Berganza, Sarah Boone, Traci Bryant, Kelly Burkhead, Stephanie Candido, Charlotte Chen, Veronica Flores, Leslie Freed, Colin Grubbs, Nolan Himelfarb, Paige Johnston, Jenna Koffer, Ramya Kosuri, Soo Lee, Grecia Linares Campos, Karla Martinez, Gustavo Olivar, Lesly Orellana, Heather Phelan, Lasiana Portugal, Nicole Ramirez, Yasmin Rincon, Justin Rodriguez, Linsey Rosas, Franklin Sepulveda, Marya Shouldice, Danielle Siegmeth, James Tabolsky, Ceasar Zertuche.

Happy Birthday month!

Rabbit Hemmorhagic Disease Virus 2

RHDV2 is a fatal disease affecting both wild and domestic rabbits. It does not impact human health. Thankfully, there are no known cases in Los Angeles, but the disease is highly contagious and we are taking precautions. Every rabbit that enters our facilities is being quarantined before living in the same room with other rabbits.

If you have rabbits, you may want to read the following information to learn how to protect them: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/fs-rhdv2.pdf

Midnight and Bay, best buddies adopted from West LA in June, in their new home.

Contacting us during this time:
It's a good idea at this time to email multiple people. When you contact your Volunteer Liaison, cc victoria.montoya@lacity.org & carolyn.almos@lacity.org

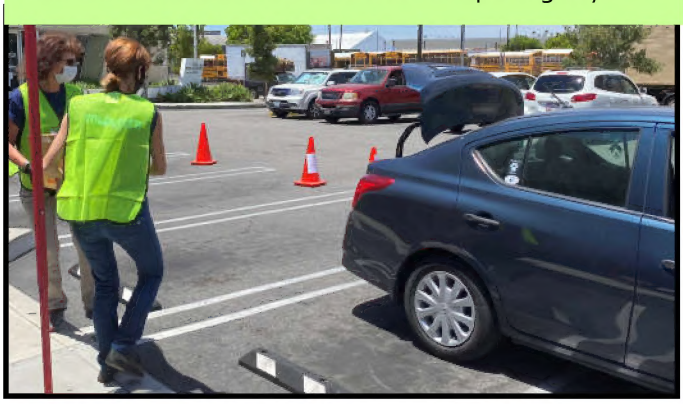
213-395-1163

Volunteer Service in June

PET FOOD PANTRY

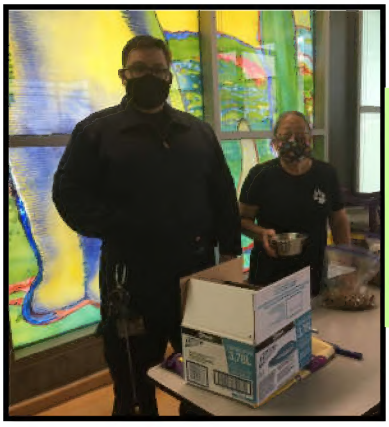
EAST VALLEY: Diane from West LA took a break from pantry prep to give Bodie a belly rub (A1932838) on June 19th.

CHESTERFIELD SQUARE: Mercedes from Harbor and Eveline from Chesterfield load a car on opening day.



CHESTERFIELD SQUARE: Mark from West LA and Kathryn from Chesterfield prepped on June 7th for the opening on June 8th.

EAST VALLEY: Tiger from North Central and Gretchen from Harbor prep for the second week of the Pantry on June 21st.



EAST VALLEY: Enrichment Lead Jose and Heidi from West Valley prepped on June 7th for opening day.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE TABLE

East Valley A & C crews—the table will be open on July 3-4-5. Please sign up on the portal if you can help!

Clockwise from left: Darryl from East Valley, Charles from East Valley, Dalan from North Central and Judith from East Valley, Andy from North Central, Tom from North Central.

Want to help with any of this? Go to Mayor Garcetti's new website, VolunteerLA, and sign up to be a Disaster Service Worker Volunteer 1. When it asks if you're affiliated with a group, be sure to pick us from the drop-down menu.